



St Helena
Government

ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE 2

ADDITIONAL REPOSSES PERTAINING TO THE REPORT
TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE FIRST MEETING OF
SELECT COMMITTEE 2, PUBLISHED ON
4TH DECEMBER 2023 – DISPOSAL OF ST HELENA
GOVERNMENT ASSETS (EXCLUDING LANDS AND
BUILDINGS)

Laid upon the Table 16 August 2024



**St Helena
Government**

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Date: 31th July 2024

Hon Julie Thomas
Chief Minister

Hon Mark Brooks
Minister for Treasury and Economic Development

Dear Ministers,

Select Committee 2 has reviewed your responses to its Report relating to St Helena Government's Asset Disposal (excluding lands and buildings).

The Committee thanks you for your respective responses and for the additional information that was provided by Portfolios following the live evidence hearing and issuing of the Report.

It is pleasing that the majority of the Committee's recommendations have been accepted. However, issues raised in the responses relating to the timescale for implementation of some key recommendations is a cause of concern. The Committee will be monitoring progress in this regard.

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to express thanks to all involved in the inquiry for their constructive and collaborative approach.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact myself as Secretary.

Yours sincerely

Morgan Thomas - Henry (Miss)
Secretary



St Helena
Government



FAIRNESS



INTEGRITY



TEAMWORK

St Helena Government, St Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ

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MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO SELECT COMMITTEE 2 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RE DISPOSAL OF SHG ASSETS – IT EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

Deputy Chief Secretary

1 March 2024

Disposal of vehicles and associated parts/stock	
	Management Response
<p>Conclusion 1: That asset disposal practices of the Transport Division appear satisfactory and largely effective. However, some of the generic recommendations made elsewhere in this Report in relation to the regulatory framework and indemnification could result in facilitating further improvement.</p>	<p>The conclusion is noted and management will continue to seek to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework and any amendments pertaining thereto.</p>
Disposal of Information Technology assets	
<p>Conclusion 1: That SC 2 recognises the need to ensure that assets that have potential educational and social value to the local community should not be placed beyond the reach of individuals because sale prices are too high. It also acknowledges</p>	<p>Management notes this conclusion but would like to clarify that computer equipment, which has become surplus to requirement and has reached its 'end of life' are made available to the public for a reasonable price, as these items can no</p>

<p>that there are members of the community who cannot afford a new computer and that second hand models are in short supply. However, all buyers now benefit from charges that are in some cases considerably below market value and current disposal practices are, therefore, not strictly compliant with the regulatory framework. This situation could be addressed through formulation of a policy containing eligibility criteria for obtaining a discounted price and minor amendment of the relevant Regulations</p>	<p>longer be technically supported and are considered a security risk.</p> <p>As technology progresses, support for older computers dwindle. Developers and manufacturers prioritise newer systems, gradually making patches and updates scarce for legacy ones. The absence of continuous updates means vulnerabilities in older software and hardware remain unaddressed, making them prime targets for cyberattacks. Legacy systems are also a preferred route for a hacker to attack to get access to systems and data.</p> <p>Management will in the meantime await the development of an Asset Disposal Policy and associated guidelines to guide the disposal of IT assets as per the recommendations concerning the SHG Regulatory Framework.</p>
<p>Conclusion 2: That, for security and safety reasons, it is essential that checks are made to ensure that all storage devices are removed from IT equipment prior to it being sold and that these items have been destroyed in compliance with SHG policies. Such checks should be verified.</p> <p>Recommendation 1. With immediate effect, verified checks are made to ensure that all storage devices are removed from IT equipment prior to it being sold and that these items have been destroyed in compliance with SHG policies.</p>	<p>With effect from September 2023, all storage/hard drive devices are removed from IT equipment before the respective IT assets are sold. This is in line with SHG's IT Secure Disposal Policy V1 of 23/09/23, which states the following:</p> <p>Disposal of IT Equipment & Associated Hardware</p> <p>3.1. Responsibility <i>Clearance for disposal of obsolete and/or redundant IT equipment is granted by the IT Manager, whilst referring to the asset register for confirmation that specific items are due for disposal.</i></p> <p>3.2. Disposal Procedure <i>The following steps form part of the physical disposal process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Removal of data from equipment -Consolidation of obsolete equipment to the disposal location -Collected by the third party for secure, and environmentally friendly, destruction and disposal in accordance with NCSC guidance¹ -Completion of relevant paperwork, e.g. Secure Disposal Certification, updating of asset register(s).

	<p><i>Note: The removal of files, documents, spreadsheets and all data that is still required for business use is the responsibility of the user(s) of the equipment, prior to collection of the item for consolidation</i></p>
<p>Conclusion 3: That SC 2 welcomes the statement made by the IT Section Manager regarding procuring a live database for all IT assets, and recognises the importance of the procured software being suitable for their needs. The establishment of such data bases throughout SHG could enhance asset management considerably.</p> <p>Recommendation 2. It must be ensured that the live database to be procured will be suitable for the IT Section needs and tailored to the IT assets.</p>	<p>Management supports this recommendation and will liaise with the IT Section Manager as to the procurement of an affordable and suitable database.</p>
<p>Conclusion 4: That in order to reduce risk to SHG, the IT Section should seek legal advice without delay pertaining to the wording used in the document currently provided to buyers. As, from the evidence heard, this is clearly not only an issue in relation to IT equipment, it would be prudent for SHG to develop a standardised document to be given to all buyers of any of its assets.</p> <p>Recommendation 3. Legal advice is sought regarding the wording of letters provided to purchasers of IT equipment as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>Management supports this recommendation and will seek legal advice accordingly.</p>

Julie Thomas



Chief Minister

31 May 2024

